

7. The St Thomas Chapel

Thomas did not, at first, believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. Doubting, Jesus invited him to put his hands upon his pierced side, to know that it really was him. Have there been moments when you have struggled with doubt? When have you known God's presence most powerfully? When has he been most distant from you? Take some time, as you sit here, to ask God to be present with you in this beautiful space and in the silence.

A light shines on in the darkness, a light that darkness cannot overcome. – John 1.5

Heading to the west door, you pass :

8. The kitchen

Here refreshment is prepared and offered. Jesus loved to share food with His friends.

Taking the five loaves and the two fishes and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks. Matthew 14.19

Give thanks for all the different ways that God has provided for you and pray for those who do not have enough this day.

9. The font

The font marks the welcome to new members of the family of Christ. Reflect here and give thanks for all your own family, godparents and others who have inspired you in life, and shown you something of God. As you gaze at the font, remember the potential of the water held in it to both refresh and cleanse.

As a member of the Christian family, it is traditional to make the sign of the cross on the forehead with water; do this as you turn again to look down the church towards the altar. Gaze at the window above the altar - from the outside its full beauty is dull and hidden.

*A man that looks on glasse, on it may stay his eye;
or, if he pleaseth, through it passe, and then the
heav'n espie. – George Herbert*

Reflect on the pillars holding up the church. What pillars hold up your life? See the windows above them flooding the church with light. Let light flood your life! Think of all those who will enter this building for a baptism, a wedding, a funeral, for worship and fellowship, or just to enjoy the beauty of it. Remember all those who have contributed to this building over the last 750 years.

Anyone who wants to save his life, must lose it. Anyone who loses his life will find it. What gain is there if you win the whole world and lose your very self? What can you offer in exchange for your one life? – Matthew 16.25-26

Then, as you turn to leave through the south door, may you find peace as you continue your journey through life.

Christ Jesus, by your resurrection
you are always with me,
at all times and in all places.
You walk alongside day by day,
be with me as I leave this holy place,
Lord I Pray.

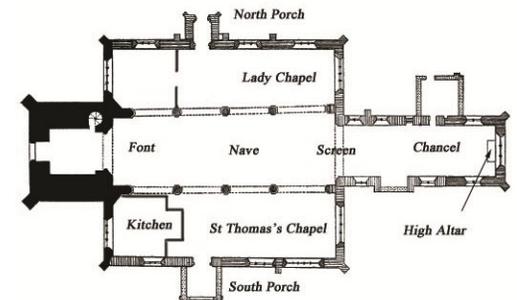
*You shall go out with joy, and be led forth with
peace and the mountains and the hills shall break
forth before you. - Isaiah 55.12*

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Prayer Walk

Welcome to the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul in Deddington



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Thank you for taking the time to visit this Church where people have come to worship and pray for over 750 years. Some people see their life as a pilgrimage, a journey of discovery, an encounter with new places, different people, and with God.



The labyrinth is a prayer path which helps you to take time and slow down.

As you move to the centre you can begin to let go of things on your mind,

lay down things of the world, so that you can pay more attention to what God is saying.

After dwelling in the centre for a while you can begin the pathway out, using this time as preparation to 're-enter' the world.

Your prayer walk begins:

1. South door/porch

The porch in times past was used for parts of the service; the stone benches are testament to this. Begin to reflect on your own journey. What brought you here? What do you hope you will find inside? Enter here as many pilgrims have done in the last 750 years.

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving

and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good

and his love endures for ever;

- Psalm 100. 3-5

2. The Lady Chapel (North Aisle)

Here you may remember your own mother as well as Mary, the mother of Jesus. Look at the icon of Mary on the altar, and see the tenderness of the mother for her son, and the son for his mother. Mary was told that a 'sword would pierce her heart' with the death of Jesus on the cross.

What pierces your heart, or the heart of those whom you love, at the moment?

Who needs your prayers in your family and among your friends? You are invited to put a prayer pebble in the bowl as you pray for them. Sit and reflect on your journey so far.

Turn east:

3. The screen

Dating from the 15th Century, the screen in front of you marks a division between the nave and the chancel. Pause and reflect on barriers in your own life. What things are holding you back or stopping you from seeing the way forward? You may like to light a candle on the prayer stand in the Lady Chapel; to light even a tiny candle will throw light on your journey.

Jesus said, "*I am the light of the world.*"

Christ Jesus, inner light, you send your peace upon us. It is kindness, it is love, it brings hope, it leads to change in our lives.

And then an inner voice rises within us, and that voice is already our prayer.

Even when our lips are silent

and we cannot find the words to say,

our hearts still speak to you,

and our hearts listen also.

Br Roger, Taizé

Be merciful to me and hear my prayer. -Psalm 4.1

Let go of all that hinders you.

Move on to:

4. The high altar

Stand in front of the altar steps and think of the welcome freely given to all who come to the Lord's table. Contemplate the forgiveness offered to all who repent. Come to the table of the risen Lord. Come because he loves you and gave himself for you. Remember that: Jesus Christ suffered death upon the cross for our redemption and made a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Go back into the nave and down to the lectern.

5. The Eagle lectern

Here you can read the word of the Lord. Stay a while and remember that God knew you before you knew yourself, and longs for you to become that person he intends you to be. God loves you and longs for you to feel that Love.

Look towards:

6. The pulpit

The sermons spoken from here are intended to uplift, develop, and challenge your thoughts. Stop and think about the preachers charged with expounding God's word; pray for them in their ministry. Ask God to reveal his word for you in your life.

Turn to the south, to: